

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Older Central Business Districts, Neighborhoods Targeted **State Parks to Administer California Main Street Program**

SACRAMENTO -- The California Main Street Program, which works with communities to revitalize their historic or traditional commercial areas, will be administered by the State Office of Historic Preservation of California State Parks under legislation signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The program provides technical assistance and training for small cities and communities to enhance economic revitalization and development of older central business districts and neighborhoods districts located in California's diverse cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

"I am very pleased to receive this major economic and preservation program in our office," said State Historic Preservation Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, who was appointed by the Governor to his position in April.

"Although the California Main Street program comes without state funding, I am confident that necessary funds can be found to energize the program," Donaldson said. "The much wanted assistance provided to local communities and property owners needs to continue."

For almost 17 years, the California Main Street Program was located in the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency until 2002 budgetary cutbacks removed all state funding, effectively shutting down the successful program. There were 58 programs statewide, including cities such as Arcata, Oceanside, Salinas, Hanford, Grass Valley and San Diego.

Encinitas and Paso Robles received two of five nationwide awards at this year's National Main Street Conference in New Mexico, hosted by the Albuquerque Main Street Program and the National Main Street Association and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Office of Historic Preservation administers federal and state preservation programs within California and provides technical assistance regarding California historic resources to property owners and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations.

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Any person or organization seeking further information or who may be interested in participating in the program may contact Steade R. Craigo, FAIA, in the Office of Historic Preservation at (916) 651-7149.

The inclusion of the Main Street provision in the legislative bill was due to the efforts of the California Main Street Association and the Californians for Preservation Action, Donaldson said.

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